Wait list for LPG in Bihar

1584. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of persons are in the waiting list for LPG connections;

(b) if so, the number of persons on the waiting list for LPG connections in Bihar as on date, district-wise; and

(c) by when, the list is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) LPG requirements are met by a combination of domestic production and imports. Owing to a temporary LPG shortage in the country since September 2005 because of various factors *viz.*, non-materialization of some additional LPG imports planned by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs), shut down of RIL's Jamnagar refinery and unplanned shutdowns at some of the other sources, OMCs had restricted the release of new connections since September 2005. With the improvement in supply situation, they have resumed the release of new connections from 1st December 2005 onwards and the waiting list throughout the country has been brought down to a considerable extent.

(b) and (c) OMCs have reported that there is no waiting list for LPG connections in the State of Bihar.

Shortage of kerosene in Jharkhand

†1585. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given any attention to the critical situation arising out of shortage of kerosene oil in Jharkhand;

(b) whether any request has been received from State Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) PDS kerosene is an allocated product. In addition to PDS kerosene, the Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) sell non-PDS kerosene as per the requirements. During 2005-06, 211175 MT of PDS kerosene has been allocated to Jharkhand State.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

No request has been received from the State Government regarding shortage of kerosene oil in Jharkhand.

Availability of oil and coal in Assam

1586. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is plenty of oil trapped in shale oil and coal in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh;

(b) whether Government have any plan to extract shale oil from these places; and

(c) if so, the details of Government policy and the strategy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) There are reported occurrences of oil shale associated with coal in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. No assessment has been made about oil reserves in shale/coal. Oil India Ltd. in past had undertaken R&D activity with the help of a foreign company however commerciality could not be established. Directorate General Hydrocarbons (DGH) has initiated action to take up studies on resource estimated of oil shale deposits and syncrude potential in North Eastern part of India.

Charging of high rate on luxury cars by tourist organisations

1587. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the big tourist organizations in the country operate their luxury cars on diesel while charging very high rate from their customers thus making huge profits;

(b) whether Government are aware that this practice adversely affects the interests of rural farmers for whom particularly cheaper diesel in meant; and

(c) if so, whether Government would consider any proposal to put additional cess or excise duty on diesel purchased by the owners of luxury cars for purposes of tourism and if so, the details thereof?